# MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Biweekly Newsletter

REFUGE

Adam Ells/USFWS



seabeach amaranth growing on South Monomoy

#### **BEE HAPPY AT MONOMOY**

Although we associate flowers with the coming of spring, at Monomoy, the past two weeks were filled with flowers! From a lecture about pollinators to expanding our pollinator garden, we have recently been focusing on bees and butterflies at the refuge.

If you are interested in viewing flowers and bees or want inspiration for what to plant in your own garden at home, a visit to Monomoy is the perfect stop for you. Volunteers and staff will be happy to discuss our pollinator garden and answer any questions you may have.

#### **VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT**

This week, we would like to shout out Steve Keenan and Jackie Venner! Steve is the president of the Friends of Monomoy National Wildlife refuge, and he and Jackie are a massive help to the refuge throughout the year. Steve and Jackie frequently staff the visitor center and assist with refuge maintenance. Steve also helps ferry biology staff to and from the Monomoy Islands. They both enjoy going out on their boat in their free time. Thanks Steve and Jackie!



Steve (back) and Jackie helping out at the visitor center

# **NEWS FROM THE FIELD**



The site of what used to be one of the tern camp's tents

# **Closing Tern Camp**

With the terns migrating south for winter, the season of field research at Monomoy is nearing its close. Biology staff at the refuge spent the summer living in a camp set up within the tern colony on South Monomoy Island during their work week, and the time has come for camp to be taken down. Refuge staff worked for a full day to take down all of the tents and move all of their supplies off of the island. They are living and working full-time on Morris Island to analyze and consolidate the data collected throughout the season.

# Pulling Invasives is Oh So Sweet

On August 7th, a volunteer from the Wompanoag Tribe and refuge staff worked to remove the invasive Oriental bittersweet from around Monomoy Point Light to allow for native plants to fill in the area. While pulling out plants was tough work, it is crucial to remove invasive species before they spread and negatively impact native species.



The pile of bittersweet that was pulled from the trees at right



The newly planted Mashpee pollinator garden

# Pollinators at Mashpee

Two refuge staff members took a trip to Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge to expand their pollinator garden on July 31st. They collaborated with campers from Wampanoag Tribe Youth summer camp, staff from Mashpee NWR, and the Regional Office of the USFWS to fill a previously empty plot of land with native flowers to support native bees and butterflies. After the gardening, they attended demonstrations about prescribed burning and radio telemetry and obtained plants from the Friends of Mashpee to expand Monomoy's pollinator garden.

# Friends of Monomoy Talk

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History Senior Aquarist and Butterfly House Lead Marjorie Williams spoke at the third Friends of Monomoy Summer Series talk on August 2nd. She explained the different types of bees, butterflies, and other insects that pollinate flowers and the important role they play in the life cycle of plants. After speaking about pollinators, Williams gave an overview of the museum's horseshoe crab program, which involves raising horseshoe crabs from eggs and releasing them into the ocean when they are developed enough to thrive in the wild.



Baby horseshoe crabs in the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

# **COMMUNITY NEWS**

# **Monomoy Pollinator Garden**



The new and improved Monomoy pollinator garden On August 6th, refuge staff and volunteers significantly expanded our pollinator garden, adding 94 native flowering plants to the existing garden and creating a brand new garden. These perennial flowers will provide food to bees and butterflies for years to come.

Because many plants, including certain food crops, rely on pollinators to reproduce, supporting their populations is a vital step to protect the environment. Providing native flowers, mixing species that flower from early spring to late fall, and eliminating the use of pesticides are all strategies you can use to help pollinators at your own home.

# Weekly Nature Walks

Friday-Sunday at 9am and 3pm. Join us outside the doors of the visitor center to learn about the refuge's flora and fauna as well as the cultural history of the area. Wear sunscreen and comfortable shoes to walk on sand. Binoculars available to borrow upon request. Each tour lasts 1-1.5 hours, but shorter walks are available by request on weekends.

# Stay connected with updates from our official Facebook Page!

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### August 18th Marsh Critters Workshop



Ocean Protection Advocacy Kids
Children learning and enjoying nature

Enjoy an afternoon of fun and outdoor education with Ocean Protection Advocacy Kids at the refuge! Participants will learn all about the ecology of Cape Cod marshes. This event is open to families and includes a bus ride to and from Chatham Community Center. Sponsored by Ocean Protection Advocacy Kids. 10 AM - 2 PM, free of charge, register at opakedu.org/summer-2018.

# August 20th-28th Shorebird Project



A red knot being measured during the Shorebird Project

The annual shorebird project will be held next week. A group of 17 volunteers working every day from the 20th to the 28th will be trapping, measuring, banding, and releasing various shorebirds that stop at Monomoy in their migrations. This year the focus is on nano-tagging black-bellied plovers and recapturing red knots to collect information from previously attached geolocators.